DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 321 649 HE 023 667

AUTHOR	Carr, Rebecca; Rockingham, Constance
TITLE	Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center Model Program.
INSTITUTION	American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.; Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville.
SPONS AGENCY	Illinois State Dept. of Children and Family Services, Springfield.; Illinois State Office of the Attorney General, Springfield.
PUB DATE	90
NOTE	12p.; This report is one of a group gathered by the AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project, funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education. For related documents, see HE 023 654-677. Also funded by the Illinois Coalition against Sexual Assault and United Way.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Advocacy; Child Abuse; *Clinics; College Students; Community Centers; Counseling Services; Field Experience Programs; Health Services; Higher Education; Information Centers; Professional Education; Program Descriptions; *Rape; Referral; *Sexual Abuse; State Universities; *Student Personnel Services; Volunteers
IDENTIFIERS	*AASCU ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project; *Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

ABSTRACT

A unit within the Division of Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is described. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center has existed for 12 years, providing services to traditional and nontraditional students and community residents. The three programs at the center, the adult sexual assault program, the child sexual assault program, and the public education and awareness program, provide students and residents with comprehensive clinical and educational services. Services consist of information and referral, assessment, counseling and advocacy, public education, and professional training. Volunteer and practica opportunities are available. As a community-based program, funding is generated from a variety of local and state resources. The annual provision of clinical services to nearly 1,000 individuals and educational services to 3,000 individuals support the need for the center and its importance to the university and community. (Author/MSE)

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RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE CARE CENTER

MODEL PROGRAM

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

FUNDING AGENCIES:

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE
ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
UNITED WAY

Starting Date: October 3, 1977
Ongoing

Project Contact: Rebecca K. Carr
(618) 692-2197

HE023 667

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

PART A

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

ABSTRACT

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE CARE CENTER MODEL PROGRAM

This report describes a unique and innovative unit within the Division of Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center has existed for 12 years and provides service to traditional and non-traditional students and community residents. The three programs at the Center, the Adult Sexual Assault program, the Child Sexual Assault program and the Public Education and Awareness program, provide students and residents with comprehensive clinical and educational services. Services consist of information and referral, assessment, counseling and advocacy, public education, and professional training. Volunteer and practica opportunities are available. As a community-based program, funding is generated from a variety of local and state resources. The annual provision of clinical services to nearly 1000 individuals and educational services to 3000 individuals attests to the need for the Center and underscores its importance to the University and the community. Given the rate of sexual assault in today's society, having this program available on campus directly impacts the retention of students in crisis and those concerned with personal safety.

INTRODUCTION

The attached report is a description of a model rape and sexual abuse program which exists on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Attached are a brief history of the development of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center, a description of the current staffing pattern, and a description of the three existing programs within the Center. This model center is unique in that the target population is both students and community residents and includes programs for victims of rape and incest as well as for child sexual abuse. A brief review of the literature with regard to rape on campuses and the prevalence of child sexual abuse is included. How students have used the Center and how the services have impacted retention are also addressed. Furthermore, the statistics which demonstrate the necessity of the Center within the Metro St. Louis community are included. Lastly, the funding sources (primarily external grants) are indicated in this report. Recommendations for improvement of the Center are also made with suggestions on how a college or university might initiate a similar project.

OVERVIEW OF RAPE

"Rape is by far the most prevalent, serious violent crime committed on college campuses" (Adams & Abarbanel, 1988). In a recent survey of over 6000 students from 32 colleges, one in six females reported having been a victim of rape or attempted rape during the preceding year. One in 15 male students reported committing rape or attempting to commit rape (Kass, 1987). Sexual assault is the fastest growing crime in the United States.

In recent years, several universities and colleges have been sued as a result of assaults on their campuses. The college of Charleston was assessed $225,000 in a settlement with a student who was raped and beaten in her residence hall room. In Massachusettes, Pine Manor College was assessed $195,000 in a suit where a freshman was forced at knife point into an unlocked vacant dining area where she was raped. At Harvard University, a woman was awarded a $150,000 settlement after having been abducted from a parking lot at gun point, raped, and robbed (Perspective, 1986).

The actual rate of reporting stranger rape is considered more accurate than the rate of reporting acquaintance rape. An estimated ten times as many acquaintance rapes occur than are reported (Adams & Abarbanel, 1988). Societal attitudes and professional individuals lacking knowledge and expertise greatly contribute to this phenomenon. Victims who experience rape often become emotionally paralyzed for a period of time and are unable to cope with a daily routine. Even with supportive family and friends, most victims will need professional counseling at some

point during their lives. Shattered self-esteem, fear, and inability to trust one's own judgment, total change of environment including moving and/or changing jobs, or dropping out of school are only a few of the problem areas victims will experience.

OVERVIEW OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Since 1980, child sexual abuse has emerged as a national social problem, handicapping thousands of children each year. Currently, one in four girls and one in ten boys will be sexually abused before age 18. In 1986, the Department of Children and Family Services reported 4,902 children as victims of child sexual abuse. In urban areas, child sexual abuse is readily reported; however, in rural areas, characterized by social and geographic isolation, the identification of the problem is more complex.

Prior to 1980, little had been done in regard to studying, reporting, or researching child sexual abuse. "The public has not really recognized it as a problem, nor have the police. There are many unreported sex crimes involving children, but little has been done to encourage the reporting of these crimes" (Burges, Groth, Holmstrom, & Sgroi, 1978). Prior to 1960, there were four studies of sexual abuse in the literature; however, the number of such studies has increased rapidly since 1980 (Finkelhor, 1986).

The rate of child sexual abuse varies according to the reserachers, the sample population, and how the researcher defines sexual abuse. Of major significance is the Kinsey Report (1953) where 4,444 women were surveyed and one in four acknowledged preadolescent sexual contact with an older male. Among college studies, a more recent study of males and females indicated one in ten reporting sexual experiences with older partners prior to age 18 and one in 20 males reporting this same type of experience (Seidner & Calhoun, 1984). Five additional community studies of sexual abuse during childhood are noteworthy. Keckley Market Research (1983) randomly sampled 603 Nashville adults and found approximately one in nine females and one in 20 boys had been abused in childhood. Kricher and McShane (1984) randomly sampled in Texas and had similar findings for women; however, reported sexual abuse of males was found to be one in 33. Lewis (1985), in a national random sample, reported approximately one in four females and one in six males were abused. Mille (1976), in an Illinois random sample, found one in seven females reporting sexual molestation between ages 14-18 and one in 12 males reporting the same. Wyatt (1985), in a sample of 248 women in Los Angeles County reported 62 percent of this population sexually abused prior to age 18. Given these findings, college campuses can expect to have a fair number of students who were victims prior to becoming students. These unresolved issues make students a target for rape and also impact their ability to trust and respect those in authority. Prior sexual victimization diminishes students' self-esteem and ability to make good decisions.

BACKGROUND

RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE CARE CENTER

In the early 1970's, the Women's movement gained momentum in colleges and universities. In 1973, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville offered a course entitled "Issues in Feminism." As a result of student interest, a minor in Women's Studies was developed in 1974. The Issues in Feminism course and related initiatives spurred the development of groups of students who were concerned with working for women's causes, including rape and sexual harassment. In 1975, two students became involved in the St. Louis Rape Crisis Network, while other students were concerned about sexual harassment of students. The latter group formed the forerunner of a student organization known as Women for Women. Simultaneously, but separately, other women were involved in an Equal Opportunity Committee, also concerned with sexual harassment on campus. Through this committee, proposals were developed to provide a center on campus which would address the sexual victimization of women. In 1977, such a center was established.

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center, a University and community-based program providing services to traditional and non-traditional students and community residents, began operating on October 3, 1977, and was supported by state appropriations for the first three years. Initially, the Center provided advocacy services to victims at all local area hospitals and educated area police departments and the criminal justice system regarding the needs of rape victims. Volunteers were trained to staff a 24-hour crisis hotline and to respond personally on a 24-hour basis to rape victims. Legal advocacy and counseling were provided by staff to those victims pursuing prosecution. Additional funding from local city revenue sharing was received after three years. Consequently, the Center's primary focus was service to adult females for the first four years of operation.

In 1982, a contract with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services enabled the Center to provide services to child victims of sexual abuse. While the Women's Movement had brought to public awareness the victimization of women and girls, it was only through the investigation of children that recognition was given to the victimization of boys. Thus, as chlidren -- both boys and girls -- began to be identified, the Center's mission was also adapted to meet the needs of this population. Group and individual therapy sessions were added to the services which the Center provided.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Adult Sexual Assault Program

The Adult Sexual Assault Program consists of a Volunteer Program with a total of 39 volunteers who respond to rape calls from area police departments and/or hospitals and to telephone crisis calls. Individual and group counseling are also provided, and the Center currently provides an adult group for incest victims as well as an adult group for rape victims. The Center employes a full-time counselor for individual counseling and an advocate who supervises the volunteer program. The advocate provides emotional support to victims engaged in the criminal prosecution process. Professional training for staff of area police departments, area hospitals and the legal system is provided by the advocate. Students have utilized the Center's hotline and counseling services when concerned for friends and roommates. The availability of individual sexual assault counseling for students has aided them to continue their education.

Child Sexual Assault Program

The Child Sexual Assault Program provides assessments of child victims and families, assists the police and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services with investigations (on a limited basis), and provides counseling to victims and families. Counselors employ a variety of treatment techniques, i.e., play therapy, art therapy, and incorporate these techniques into their own individual personal therapeutic disciplines. Objective as well as subjective test measures are used in assessing children. Children are prepared for court through this program, and parents are assisted with understanding the court process. This program has been particularly valuable to the non-traditional student with children. Given the frequency of the occurence of child sexual abuse, students have sought the resources of the Center for assessment and counseling of children.

Public Education and Awareness Program

This program provides a speakers bureau for the Metro St. Louis area. The Center has an extensive library on sexual assault and can provide educational programs on rape and child sexual abuse. The Center also provides professional training for police officers, hospital personnel, school administrators, teachers, and students in varying academic disciplines. Training consists of identifying the problem, handling disclosure, becoming sensitive to the problem and the subsequent side effects, and making appropriate referrals. Given the media's attention to acquaintenance rape and child sexual abuse, students and parents have become more concerned about the safety of students. This program assists students in assessing their environment and taking necessary precautions to avoid sexual assault.

Staffing Requirements

The Center is housed administratively in the Division of Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. A director, an assistant director, three counselors (one counselor for the Adult program and two for the Children's program), a victim advocate, and two secretaries staff the Center.

Costs

Counseling, advocacy, and crisis counseling services are available at no charge to the student. There may be charges for educational programs provided to the community. The annual budget for the Center is approximately $200,000 and is generated from the following sources:

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	$ 50,000
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault	100,000
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	25,000
Illinois Attorney General	15,000
United Way	10,000

Various administrative services such as occupancy, fiscal management, custodial services, purchasing, and payroll are provided by Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Focus

The primary focus of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center is to provide comprehensive services in the Metro St. Louis area and on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to sexual assault victims and their concerned friends and/or family. In addition, the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center educates and sensitizes the community and the student body to the needs of sexual assault victims and assists various groups in developing sexual assault prevention strategies.

Scope

Currently three programs exist: the Adult Sexual Assault program, the Child Sexual Assault program, and the Public Education and Awareness program. These three programs can be accessed by students on campus and community residents from a 14-county area surrounding the campus. This area is composed of two metropolitan counties with a combined population of 500,000 and twelve rural Illinois counties. All aspects of sexual assault are addressed through these programs.

Target Population

The target population for the clinical portion of the program is all victims of sexual assault from age 3 upward and concerned friends or family members. All individuals can avail themselves of the educational programs provided by the Center. Clients may be traditional students or non-traditional students, children or community residents.

Goals of the Program

For July 1, 1989 through June 30, 1990, the Center plans to achieve the following goals:

1. 200 hours will be devoted to group counseling
2. 1400 hours will be devoted to individual counseling
3. 250 hours will be devoted to advocacy
4. 100 hours will be devoted to family counseling
5. 225 hours will be devoted to telephone counseling
6. 175 hours will be devoted to information and referral
7. 50 hours will be devoted to institutional advocacy
8. 75 programs will be presented to 1200 individuals

RESULTS

In 12 years the Center has provided clinical services to over 3,000 individuals. From July 1, 1988, through June 30, 1989, the Center provided a range of services (information and referral, counseling, or advocacy) to 998 individuals. During the same time frame, 3,030 individuals benefitted from 116 educational programs provided by the Center staff or trained volunteers. Sixty-eight Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville individuals (students, faculty, or staff) received services from the Adult or Children's program with 985 individuals (students, faculty, or staff) participating in educational programs. Several students were able to continue their education as a result of these existing programs. These figures indicate an ongoing need for the Center and the three existing programs.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The effectiveness of the programs is measured by client evaluation of the Center services and participant evaluation of the programs provided. Ratings received are above average. The demand for clinical and educational services exceeds the Center's ability to supply them. Waiting lists are in effect three to four months a year.

Provision of the educational and the clinical services aids in student retention. Students learn to feel safe in their environment or are given the necessary support and counseling after experiencing a traumatic incident. Services are available at no charge to the student.

Additional funding for the Rape and Sexual Abuse Care Center is desireable since staff salaries are at an entry level range. An additional counselor and educator are two positions that would greatly enhance the delivery of services. The ability of another university to replicate this model is contingent upon the commitment of the university and the availability of funding, internally or externally.

The program could be scaled down to focus strictly on a student population, thus reducing the cost. The program could also be incorporated within an existing counseling center in a college or university.